

Frequently Asked Questions

Statewide Dual Credit

General Questions

1. *What is the statewide dual credit initiative?*

The statewide dual credit initiative provides academically challenging high school courses that are aligned to postsecondary standards. Students who pass the course challenge exam earn credit that can be applied to any public postsecondary institution in Tennessee. Tennessee high school and college faculty worked together to develop the learning objectives and challenge exam for each course.

2. *What is a local dual credit course?*

Local dual credit opportunities also provide academically challenging high school courses that are aligned to postsecondary standards. However, a local dual credit course is provided through a partnership with an individual postsecondary institution, and students earn credit through an assessment that is developed and/or approved specifically for credit at that institution.

3. *Can my school offer both statewide and local dual credit?*

Yes. Both types of dual credit courses help to expand the portfolio of early postsecondary opportunities (EPSOs) available to Tennessee students. Statewide dual credit courses do not alter or replace existing local dual credit agreements between a school district and postsecondary institution(s).

4. *What statewide dual credit courses are currently available?*

Courses available include:

- Pre-Calculus,
- Statistics,
- Agriculture Business Finance,
- Plant Science,
- Sociology,
- Criminal Justice II,
- World History, and
- Psychology

5. *Can statewide dual credit courses be weighted differently when calculating a student's GPA?*

Yes. The state's [Uniform Grading Policy](#) provides guidelines for weighting student grades in statewide dual credit courses. (An additional four percentage points can be used.)

Participant Requirements

1. *How can my school offer a statewide dual credit course?*

Schools must complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the department for each statewide dual credit course they plan to offer in a specific academic year.

2. *Who is eligible to teach a statewide dual credit course?*

High school educators who have attended training specific to their course prior to the start of the school year are eligible to teach a statewide dual credit course. The structure of each training session will vary depending on the course, as well as the teacher's previous statewide dual credit experience.

3. *Are there other requirements for teachers?*

Yes. Statewide dual credit teachers are responsible for meeting all deadlines and requirements for the pilot. Teachers will need to maintain communication with the department's office of postsecondary coordination and alignment and work closely with their pilot coordinator.

4. *Are there specific guidelines for student placement?*

Yes. Prior academic performance, ability, and interest should be used to inform student placement decisions. First-year results show a correlation between student performance on state assessments and success on the college algebra challenge exam.

Challenge Exam Administration

1. *Are all students required to take the challenge exam?*

Yes. All students enrolled in a statewide dual credit course are required to take a challenge exam to determine subject mastery.

2. *How are the challenge exams administered?*

The challenge exams are administered online using the Tennessee Board of Regents learning platforms.

3. *When will students take challenge exams?*

Students sit for the challenge exam at the end of the course. Fall semester courses test in December, while spring and year-long courses test in May. The pilot teacher selects a specific exam date and time for each class. A make-up test window is provided to accommodate any student with an excused absence during the original exam period.

4. *Where will students take the practice test and challenge exam?*

All exams are administered online. Therefore, schools and/or districts will determine an exam location that meets the technology requirements (see question 7 below).

5. *Can students take a challenge exam more than once?*

No. **Students only have one attempt at each exam.** Any additional attempts will not be reported.

6. *Are teachers who teach the class allowed to administer and/or proctor the exam?*

No. An additional proctor must observe the administration of the challenge exam. However, the course teacher may be in the room during the exam administration (though it is not required).

7. *What are the specific technology requirements to run the exam?*

High schools are required to install Google Chrome or Firefox on each computer prior to exam administration. The students should use Chrome or Firefox (not Internet Explorer) when opening the internet to begin the exam. Note that the Flash plug-in must be installed in order to use Firefox.

8. *Is on-site technical assistance available during the administration of the exam?*

Yes. Pilot coordinators receive training in September so that they can help teachers with the technology and exam administration. There will also be help-desk support from the Tennessee Board of Regents for specific issues. Note that all technology should be tested prior to exam administration.

Course and Exam Outcomes

1. *How do students earn credit through the statewide dual credit courses?*

Students who meet or exceed the established cut score on the challenge exam earn credit that can be applied toward any public postsecondary institution in the state.

2. *Which postsecondary institutions award credit based on challenge exam scores?*

All Tennessee public postsecondary institutions (i.e., Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee schools) award credit based on the statewide dual credit exams. Private institutions will determine whether or not to award postsecondary credit on an individual basis.

3. *Does the exam score impact the student's grade in the course?*

It is a local decision whether or not to include the challenge exam as part of students overall grade for the course.

4. *Why is the statewide dual credit exam score reported on the high school transcript?*

Challenge exam scores are reported on high school transcripts for the purpose of awarding credit at the postsecondary level. The scores are listed with other test scores, such as ACT and end-of-course (EOC) exams, and are not linked to the course itself. The score is reported as a number, and pass/fail status is not indicated on the transcript.

5. *Will a low exam score negatively impact a student's postsecondary application?*

No. The exam score will not negatively impact a student. Enrollment in the course is seen as a positive reflection of academic rigor, and the score is only used as a way to accurately award credit.